



# The National Coastal Zone Management Program

## Measuring Performance: Coastal Habitat



### The National Coastal Zone Management Program

The National Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program is a voluntary partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and 34 coastal states and territories. Established under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) in 1972, the program seeks to protect, restore, and responsibly develop our nation's diverse coastal communities and resources.

### The Importance of Coastal Habitat

The U.S. coast has many diverse natural habitats, including sand dunes, marshes, coastal and mangrove forests, coral reefs, mud flats, and underwater grasses. These habitats are vital to local and national economies. They provide flood and storm protection and erosion control and filter pollutants from water. Coastal habitats also support sustainable fisheries, robust recreation and tourism industries, and thriving wildlife populations. However, coastal habitats face many threats, including increased development pressure, polluted runoff, marine debris, invasive species, and climate change.

### Protecting and Restoring Coastal Habitat

The National CZM Program protects and restores coastal habitats so that they can continue to benefit our communities and economies. The program developed several metrics to track and assess its performance in achieving the coastal habitat goals of the CZMA. The metrics focus on the National CZM Program's work to protect and restore coastal habitats, remove marine debris, and educate and train community members about the importance of coastal habitats and how to effectively protect and restore these important areas.

### Putting It into Context...

**\$23 billion**

Annual amount of storm surge protection provided by coastal wetlands to areas vulnerable to hurricanes and tropical storms in the United States

**more than 50% of commercial fisheries**

Percentage of commercially harvested fish in the United States that depend on coastal waters

**75% of waterfowl and migratory birds**

Percentage of waterfowl and migratory birds that use coastal areas for resting, feeding, and breeding habitat in the United States

Source: NOAA's State of the Coast. [www.stateofthecoast.noaa.gov](http://www.stateofthecoast.noaa.gov)

# COASTAL HABITAT

Between 2008 and 2011

- Goals:**
- Protect coastal habitat through acquisition and easement
  - Restore coastal habitat
  - Remove marine debris from coastal habitats

## Getting Results

### The National CZM Program:



protected:

**14,500** acres of coastal habitat



restored:

**28,000** acres of degraded coastal habitat under restoration



removed:

**14.7M** pounds of marine debris



## Increasing Capability



educated:

**450,000** people about the importance of and how to protect coastal habitat



trained:

**11,000** coastal decision makers to protect and restore coastal habitats



## Putting Funding to Work



invested:

**\$54M** (federal+match) in coastal habitat

Leveraging an additional

**\$40M**

=1,000 acres   
 =1million pounds   
 =1,000 people   
 =\$10 million

## Spotlight: National CZM Program Lays Foundation for Community Restoration in Hawai'i

Years of agricultural use and encroaching development transformed Hoi, once a productive wetland track on the island of O'ahu, into a fallow swamp choked by invasive plants. Recognizing a need to protect the Kāne'ohē Bay and a historical community fish pond at the base of the wetlands, in Hawai'i, the National CZM Program funded and helped community groups develop a master plan to guide the restoration of over 400 acres of wetlands and adjacent uplands. Completed in 2010, the plan laid out three primary goals: restore the wetland to improve water quality; educate and involve community members in traditional Hawaiian land stewardship customs; and restore the historical agricultural-based industry.

The master planning process strengthened community partnerships and helped leverage additional funding and

expertise to support the restoration effort from federal and state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and school groups. Hundreds of community volunteers also participated in monthly restoration days to remove invasive plants and plant native species. The National CZM Program-supported master plan has laid a solid foundation for the restoration project and shown how an initial vision can grow into a community-wide effort. For additional information, visit [www.kakooiwi.org](http://www.kakooiwi.org).



Credit: Kako'o 'O'iwi

*"Working with the Hawaii CZM Program, and the support that the program provided . . . for the Hoi restoration project, was truly a collaborative effort. We now have a strategic plan... something that couldn't be accomplished without the support of NOAA and many other partners."*

—Hoi Restoration Partnership